

## **Press Release**

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### **Garfield W. Boon, Jr., Bruce Ferguson, Sharon McPherson, and Peter Maunz Receive Outstanding Contributions Awards From Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program**

Arlington, VA – Four Federal employees were honored by the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (the Committee) for their outstanding contributions to the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program. Providing jobs to 48,000 people who are blind or have other severe disabilities, the JWOD Program is the single largest source of employment for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities in the United States. The Outstanding Contributions Award recognizes Federal employees for their efforts in creating employment opportunities on Federal contracts for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities under the auspices of the JWOD Program.

"Garfield W. Boon, Jr., Bruce Ferguson, Sharon McPherson, and Peter Maunz are strong proponents of the JWOD Program and most deserving of this award. Through their efforts, they have been able to create stable, meaningful employment for individuals who are blind or severely disabled," said Steve Schwalb, Committee Chairperson.

During Fiscal Year 2005, the JWOD Program continued to provide a high number of jobs and increase in the wages earned by JWOD employees. These achievements are a direct result of the dedication and commitment of people such as this year's Outstanding Contributions Award recipients.

**Garfield W. Boon, Jr.**, is the Deputy Director of the Contracting & Acquisition Management Office in the U.S. Army Space & Missile Defense Command. Over the past 25 years he has increased support for the JWOD Program and created employment for people who are blind or severely disabled with contracts for managing the Command mailroom, providing mail courier operations, supporting Command administrative services, and performing facilities support - minor vehicle maintenance, purchasing, inventory control, carpentry, plumbing, electrical, and machine shop services. Moreover, during 2005's funding reductions, he advocated for JWOD employees so effectively that not one JWOD employee at his installation lost his or her job. In addition, Mr. Boon schedules site visits to nonprofit agencies so that Army employees can gain first-hand knowledge of JWOD solutions that are available to support government customers in meeting their missions. Due to his commitment, more than 50 people who are blind or have other severe disabilities work on contracts he awarded.

**Bruce Ferguson** is the Director of Contracting in the Army Contracting Agency - Northern Region, at Fort Drum, in New York. Over the past 22 years, he has increased support for the JWOD Program and created employment for people who are blind or severely disabled with contracts encompassing recycling, custodial, central issue facility, and dining facility attendant services. In 1996, he established a Self Service Supply Center; and in 1998, he implemented an innovative contract for services, the first of its kind in the U.S. Army. His concept prompted several similar contracts at other installations, resulting in wider product selections, lower pricing, and improved customer service for Fort Drum customers. Mr. Ferguson's consistent record of successfully supporting the JWOD Program includes several NISH and Army awards, reflecting a career has created a work environment that fully supports the JWOD Program. As a result, JWOD contracts that he awarded provide employment for 200 people who are blind or severely disabled.

**Colonel Peter Maunz** is the Commander, 45th Contracting Squadron, 45th Fighter Wing at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida. During his 23-year military career, Col. Maunz has increased support of the JWOD Program and created employment for people who are blind or severely disabled by promoting, developing, or administering multiple JWOD contracts. As Commander, 509th Contracting Squadron, 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman AFB, he awarded the first individual equipment base supply center for the Air Combat Command to a JWOD-affiliated nonprofit agency. At his subsequent command of the 1st Contracting Squadron at Langley AFB, he spurred procurement officials to adopt that concept using JWOD-affiliated nonprofit agencies. While at Langley, he also oversaw the conversion of Langley's base postal service center operations to JWOD performance. In his current role, Col. Maunz oversees five JWOD contracts which currently provide employment opportunities to more than 150 people with severe disabilities.

**Sharon McPherson** is a Contracting Officer in the Office of Business Operations at the Internal Revenue Service. Over the past 19 years Ms. McPherson has continually increased support for the JWOD Program and created employment for people who are blind or severely disabled. During her government career at Andrews Air Force Base and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), respectively, she awarded a \$30-million commissary shelf stocking and warehousing project, and she developed and awarded an unprecedented off-site IRS mailroom contract to a JWOD-affiliated nonprofit agency – the first nonprofit-owned and nonprofit-operated mailroom operation in the Federal government. In addition to awarding contracts, Ms. McPherson continually shares her JWOD expertise by training new employees and contracting representatives from large Federal agencies. Due to her commitment to maximize job opportunities for people under the JWOD Program, contracts she awarded currently provide employment for more than 300 people who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

The Outstanding Contributions Awards were presented at the NISH National Training Conference in Chicago, IL, on April 30, 2006.

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The Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled is an independent Federal agency that administers the JWOD Program, which creates employment

opportunities for persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities. The Committee's primary means of achieving its employment goal is through orchestrating Government purchases of supplies and services from nonprofit agencies employing such individuals.

NISH, which serves people with a range of disabilities, is one of the two national, nonprofit organizations designated by the Committee to assist in the implementation of the JWOD Program. Together with National Industries for the Blind, these two agencies assist over 600 community-based nonprofit agencies participate in the JWOD Program.